

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II
EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08817

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 2-SA-ER

DATE: March 19, 1975

SUBJECT: Oil Spill Investigation, Central Railroad of New Jersey Property,
Newark, New Jersey

TO:

File

At 12:30 p.m. on March 18, 1975, Ed Cotterell of the NJSDEP and I left to investigate a report made by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company that a landfill located on Central Railroad of New Jersey Company property was leaching oil into Lawyers Creek, and from there, into the Passaic River.

At 1:30 p.m., we met Mr. E. A. Bauman and Mr. M. Lipinski of Public Service Electric and Gas Company. They showed us the area they were concerned about (refer to diagram #1). Oil had seeped from the landfill into drainage pipes which feed Lawyers Creek. The sides of the Creek were stained with oil from past high flows of oil and water. This Creek runs alongside the Public Service Electric and Gas Company facility. Oil had also seeped out of the other side of the landfill where it was trapped until heavy rainfall conditions would move it out, down the railroad tracks and into Lawyers Creek. At the time of our investigation, only about 3-5 gallons of oil was evident in both pools, but slow seepage was continuing.

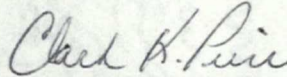
Ed Cotterell indicated that the New Jersey DEP had been called in on a similar problem in this areas about two years ago. Several large pools of oil from recent dumps were visible at that time. The landfill was then an illegal one, and New Jersey law did not allow legal action against the landfill. Therefore, informal arrangements were made with the Central Railroad of New Jersey to close the landfill area off to keep additional dumping from occurring.

When we inspected the entire dump area, it was evident that the oil pools had been filled in and that no recent oil dumping had occurred. However, oil stained patches were visible where the pools had been located and the landfill was still accessible for additional dumping. Samples were taken from both oil pools and photographs were taken of the area. Ed Cotterell planned to check with his Solid Waste Division to determine what New Jersey could do. Legal action either against the Central Railroad of New Jersey or the Newark Landfill Company (the supposed operators of this landfill) might have to be taken to:

- (1) control the oil seepage that is now getting into Lawyers Creek, and
- (2) to secure the area permanently against further illegal dumping.



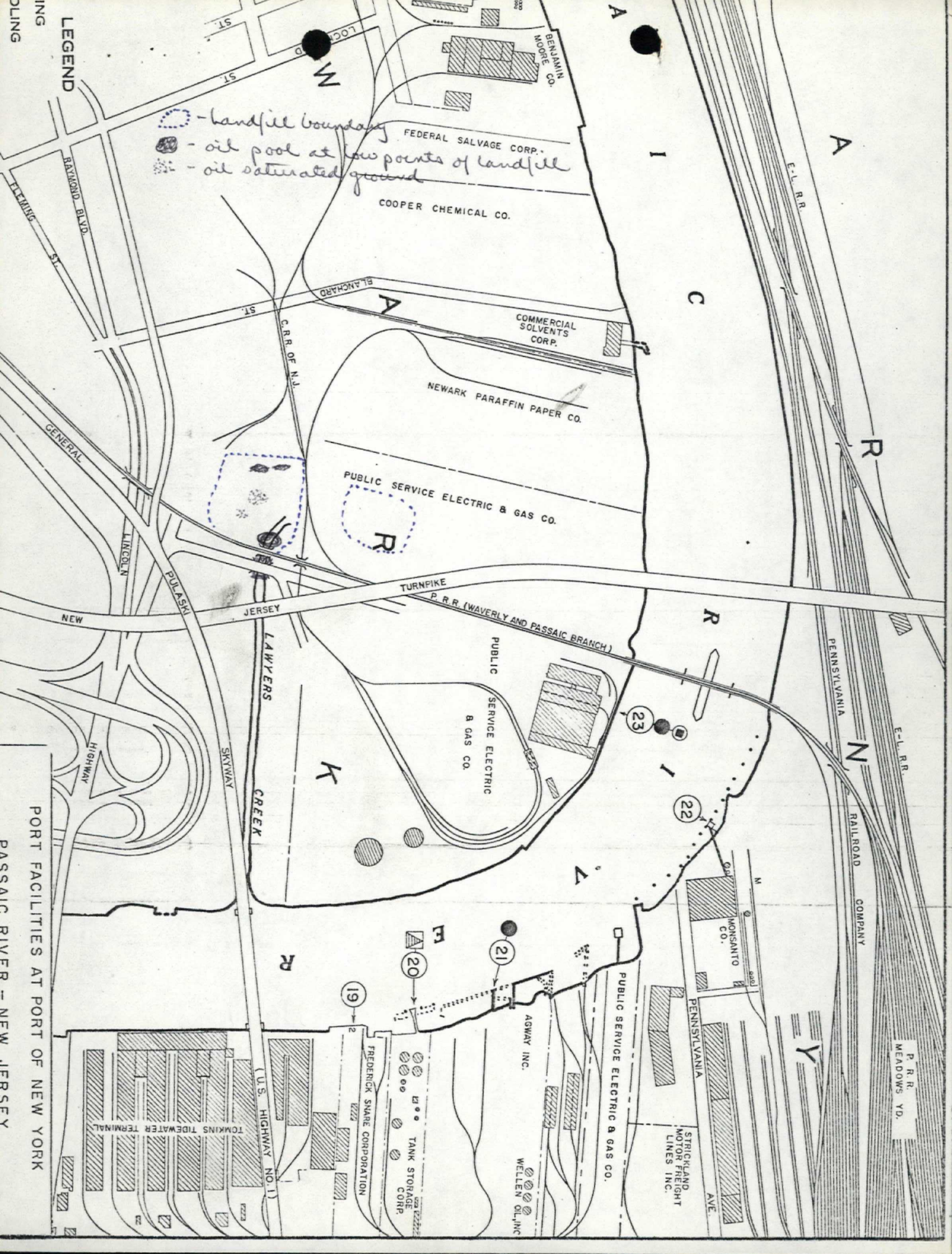
At 9:15 a.m. on March 19, 1975, I received a phone call from Ed Cotterell. He stated that the landfill operation was now legal and licensed under the name Ottilio Landfill Company. We decided to have a member of the NJSDEP Solid Waste Division go with us to the landfill early March 25 and meet with a representative of the Ottilio Landfill to discuss what action should be taken. The possibility exists of either a legal injunction or working under the NPDES system if Ottilio won't cooperate. An oil spill report will be prepared.



Clark K. Price

Pollution Spills Investigator
Emergency Response Section

Attachment



- LEGEND
- landfill boundary
 - oil pool at low points of landfill
 - oil saturated ground

COOPER CHEMICAL CO.

COMMERCIAL SOLVENTS CORP.

NEWARK PARAFFIN PAPER CO.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

TURNPIKE P.R.R. (WAVERLY AND PASSAIC BRANCH)

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS CO.

AGWAY INC.

WELLEN OIL INC.

STRICKLAND MOTOR FREIGHT LINES INC.

PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

MONSANTO CO.

FREDERICK SHAW CORPORATION

TANK STORAGE CORP.

(U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 1)

TOMKINS TIDEWATER TERMINAL

PORT FACILITIES AT PORT OF NEW YORK

PASSAIC RIVER - NEW JERSEY